

QUOTATIONSPRINCIPAL SOVIET PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON DEFENSE OF CUBA

(In Chronological Order October 28, 1962 - February 27, 1963)

Soviets Do Not Want To Let Cuba Down

Mr. President, I trust your statement. But, on the other hand, there are irresponsible people who would like to carry out an invasion of Cuba at this time, and in this way spark off a war. If we take practical steps, and announce the dismantling and evacuation of the said instruments from Cuba, then, in doing that, we wish at the same time to assure the Cuban peoples that we are with them and are not divesting ourselves of the responsibility of granting help to the Cuban people.

(Premier Khrushchev's October 28 letter to President Kennedy on withdrawal of Soviet offensive weapons from Cuba.)

USSR Will Not Avoid Responsibility for Cuba

We have feelings of sincere friendship and profound respect for the Cuban people, for their government, and for Premier Castro, and are rendering Cuba comprehensive support and aid. It is firmly and clearly stated in N.S. Khrushchev's message, of 28 October, to President Kennedy that we want to instill confidence in the Cuban people and that we are together with them, and are not avoiding responsibility for aiding the Cuban people.

(Mikoyan's remarks in New York November 2 en route to Cuba. TASS item)

USSR Will Continue To Help Cuba

The Soviet people support the heroic people of Cuba. We have helped, are helping, and will continue to help the Cuban people, who are defending their sacred rights to freedom, independence, and peace.

(Party Leader Kosygin's November 6 Speech at Soviet Revolution Anniversary Rally in Moscow.)

Cuba Is Not Alone

Cuba is not alone; the Soviet Union is with Cuba as are all socialist countries and progressive mankind. Soviet people, educated in the spirit of internationalism, helped, are helping, and will help with deeds the heroic Cuban people, who are defending the freedom and independence of their motherland. The Soviet people resolutely say: "We are with you, heroic Cuba." We know that while imperialism exists we will always have to be on guard and be very vigilant. Imperialism, however, is now far from being all powerful and the forces of peace and socialism, with energetic activity, are capable of preventing a world thermonuclear war. Peace can and must vanquish war.

(Party Leader Suslov's speech at November 14 Rally in Sofia, Bulgaria.)

Cuba Saved, Still Supported By USSR

It must be said that in this conflict reasonable solutions prevailed. There is no nuclear war and the military threat has been turned away from Cuba. The greatest guarantee of no attack on Cuba is the unity of the Cuban people and their support for their government and the ideals of Marxism-Leninism, which inspire your party and government. But the international guarantees of noninvasion, supported by the fact that the Soviet Union and the socialist countries are standing with you, hand in hand, as brothers, are also important. All this gives confidence that Cuba's economy and culture will grow, that Cuba will serve as an example of how one can resolve the historic tasks set before the people in the shortest time.... I want to repeat the words of Khrushchev, who wrote during those difficult days: We wish to create a conviction among the Cuban people that we are together with them and that we are not deserting ourselves of our responsibility for rendering assistance to the Cuban people. These words are directed not only to you, Comrade Cubans, but to all those who are still nurturing hatred of Cuba. They must realize that Cuba is ready to defend itself, that it has modern weapons for defense, and that with Cuba are the USSR and the socialist countries. Therefore, they had better be careful.

(Soviet Deputy Premier Mikoyan's November 26 TV Speech before departure from Havana.)

Cuba Will Not Be Left Defenseless

We solemnly declare that the Soviet Union has been and remains with revolutionary Cuba. We shall also in the future help the Cuban people to build their bright future. The removal of the crisis makes it possible for them to return to peaceful toil, but the forces of peace must preserve vigilance. The Soviet Government hopes that the pledges assumed by the United States with regard to Cuba will be strictly observed because the breaking of these pledges would be dangerous not only to that particular region and because it would inevitably give rise to another acute conflict and create a new threat to peace. Moreover, all confidence in such pledges would be killed, which would exclude the possibility of using in the future the method of peaceful settlement which has played a positive part in the solution of the Cuban crisis. On our part we shall firmly adhere to the agreement that has been achieved as a result of the exchange of messages with the U.S. President. We would like to issue a clear warning that our pledges remain in force so long as the other side abides by this agreement. In the event of these pledges not being respected by the other party, we would be forced to take such actions as would be required from us in the circumstances. It must be clear to all that our country will never leave revolutionary Cuba in trouble. The Soviet Union will carry out its promise to aid revolutionary Cuba: Revolutionary Cuba will not be left defenseless.

(Khrushchev's December 12 address to the USSR Supreme Soviet.)

Soviet Policy Saved Communist Regime in Cuba

It is known that the U.S. President in his message to the Soviet Government pledged before the whole world that the United States will not engage in an invasion of Cuba and will keep its allies from engaging in one. Thus the U.S. Government had in fact to renounce armed intervention against the Republic of Cuba. This was a failure for the policy of the most aggressive circles of imperialism and a victory for the policy of peaceful coexistence and for the policy of the fight against imperialism, and a triumph for the policy of preventing the export of counterrevolution.

(Khrushchev's January 16 speech to East German Party Congress.)

Soviet Armed Might Still Protects Cuba

One may object that under the influence of the most unrestrained incitement the U.S. imperialists will not keep their promise and will again turn their arms against Cuba. But the forces which protected Cuba now exist and are growing in strength every day. It does not matter where the rockets are located, in Cuba or elsewhere. They can be used with equal success against any particular aggression.

(Ibid.)

US Invasion of Cuba Would Mean World War III

We would like to warn the aggressive circles of the United States that an attack upon the Republic of Cuba would mean the beginning of World War III. If such an attack is made, peace-loving forces the world over would not limit themselves to protests and demonstrations; they will come to the defense of the country subjected to aggression, and the Soviet Union will be in the front ranks of those who will come to its aid. The peace-loving forces will come to the aid of the Cuban Republic because they will look upon a war against Cuba as a war against all who stand for peace and the sovereign rights of the peoples. Should the aggressive circles of imperialism not wish to observe the principles of the United Nations and unleash war, then this war will be carried out not only on the territory of Cuba but also on the territory of the United States.

(Soviet Defense Minister Malinovskiy's speech February 22 on occasion of the 45th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy.)

USSR Will Defend Cuba Like Any Socialist Country

We resolutely warn the Messrs imperialists: If an attack is carried out against Cuba, or the CPR against whom a threat is being forged on the part of Taiwan where the Chang Kai-Shek clique has entrenched itself, which exists solely with the support of American imperialists, if an attack is carried out against the DPRK the Vietnam Democratic Republic, the GDR or any socialist country, the Soviet Union will come to the assistance of her friends and will strike a crushing blow at the aggressors.

(Premier Khrushchev's election speech at Moscow rally February 27.)

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